SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 28 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

SUPER CARROT SOUP
RAW FOOD THAT'S DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS {page 32}

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BEAUTY BY CHANEL
MAKEUP THAT LOOKS FRESH, NOT KITSCHY {page 29}

VANCOUVER metro®
Thursday, March 1, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing

Bring in Gomery, says MP

Vancouver Quadra's Joyce Murray calls for inquiry into robocalls controversy

CONTRIBUTED/METRO FILE

▶ Joyce Murray

Call John Gomery to investigate the robocalls scandal, says a Vancouver Liberal MP whose riding was among those allegedly targeted by fraudulent calls.

Vancouver Quadra MP Joyce Murray is urging Prime Minister Stephen Harper to get Gomery — the retired judge who headed up a public inquiry into the sponsorship scandal involving Jean Chrétien's former Liberal government — to look into the suspicious calls that allegedly discouraged and misdirected voters in last year's federal election.

"It's (the prime minister's) responsibility to investigate and come clean with everything they know," Murray said. "We cannot allow this to go uninvestigated and unpunished, otherwise we don't have healthy democracy."

Murray claims she learned just three days before election day that several supporters in her riding got "bizarre, rude and harassing" late-night phone calls from people purporting to be from the Liberal party.

The calls came from a number in North Dakota, she adds. Murray says she only realized that her riding is one of up to 34 across Canada that was targeted after watching the news.

"This makes Canada a laughingstock on the international stage," she said. "Canada and Elections Canada have been proud to go and do election observations in other countries, teaching how to do proper elections, and here we are with the prime minister and his party implicated in a potentially nationwide election fraud."

Harper told the House of Commons Wednesday that the Conservatives had no role in the robocalls scandal and dismissed it as a "smear campaign" by the NDP and Liberals.

Elections Canada is investigating reports that voters in Guelph, Ont., received phone calls directing them to the wrong polling stations. **PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/ WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PNE. Amphitheatre

▶ Ben Harper performs during the 2011 edition of Byron Bay Bluesfest in Australia.

MARK METCALFE/GETTY IMAGES

Ben Harper kicking off concert series

The PNE announced Wednesday that it will hold a series of outdoor concerts at its amphitheatre this summer, beginning with Ben Harper on July 4. Story, page 4.

THE PANTS COLLECTION

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Teacher bargaining model flawed: Experts

The looming teachers strike that threatens to send parents and school officials across B.C. scrambling as early as next week is rooted in a two-decade-old decision to fundamentally change the way the province bargains with its educators, according to experts who have spent years diagnosing the problem.

Mark Thompson, a professor emeritus with the University of B.C.'s business school, is just the latest expert to state what parents in British Columbia have come to regard as obvious.

"I maintain that the bargaining structure that they have is fatally flawed," Thompson said.

B.C. teachers have been under provincewide bargaining since 1994. Since then, the only time teachers and their employer have successfully negotiated a contract was in 2006, when the government was flush with money and eager to head off public-sector strikes in the lead-up to the 2010 Olympics.

That five-year deal included a 16 per cent wage increase and a one-time signing bonus of $4,000 per teacher. But before and since, governments of both political stripes have had to step in.

"No one does it as badly as we do," Don Wright, a former deputy education minister under the NDP, wrote in his 2003 analysis of the situation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Late-breaking

- 87 per cent of B.C. teachers voted Wednesday to escalate their current job action, according to a release.
- The BCTF executive committee will meet today to discuss whether its members will walk off the job next week. For more visit metronews.ca/vancouver

Online chalk-talk sparks debate

Education minister takes to Twitter to promote Bill 22 Hour-long chat saw deluge of negative tweets

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Education Minister George Abbott took the unusual step Wednesday of holding a Twitter town hall to address concerns about Bill 22, his proposed legislation to end the ongoing teachers' strike.

In the one-hour midday event, more than 300 tweets came in under the #bced hashtag. Minister Abbott himself contributed more than 50 tweets.

The twitter chat came on the second day of voting by B.C. teachers on whether to walk off the job in response to Bill 22. The ongoing contract negotiations between the government and the BCTF dominated the chatter as much as the bill itself.

User Joanna Larson tweeted, "Bill22 politicking by lib's using the futures of students in desperate attempt to be re-elected next spring."

The tone was typical of the chat, which mostly saw the minister responding to criticism of Bill 22 and of the government's handling of the negotiations.

"The net-zero mandate (for contract mediation) is a huge stumbling bock," tweeted user @adssit.

Abbott responded, "Net-zero hasn't been a stumbling block for 130 agreements signed w/ public sector unions."

Though Abbott stopped responding at 1 p.m., the scheduled end time, dozens of users continued to tweet the hashtag in the hours that followed.

Bill 22 was introduced to the legislature on Tuesday, the same day that the Labour Relations Board approved the teachers' right to stage a limited walkout. Pending the outcome of a vote, teachers could walk out as early as Monday, according to the BCTF website.

METRO FILE

▶ Education Minister George Abbott

Shooting victim may have been gang target: Police

Surrey RCMP say a shooting Tuesday night in that Metro Vancouver suburb was targeted and appears to be gang-related.

The attack occurred just after 10 p.m. in front of a home in the 8800 block of 131 Street.

Insp. Dan Splinter says the victim was found on the lawn in front of the home and the 28-year-old man is known to police.

Splinter says the man is being treated in hospital for a gunshot wound.

Witnesses called police after hearing gunfire, but Splinter says it is too early to comment on possible suspects, and no arrests have been made.

A 31-year-old man was killed in a shooting in North Surrey on Sunday night and two men died and two others were severely wounded in three targeted shootings around Metro Vancouver since the start of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Vancouver reality star real connected

REAL HOUSEWIVES. One of the stars of the upcoming reality TV show is the wife of a man with gang connections, CKNW reported Wednesday.

Reiko MacKenzie, one of the five stars of the upcoming Real Housewives of Vancouver, is married to Sun News Lal (who is also known as Sun MacKenzie), an associate of slain gangster Bindy Johal.

Lal was among those acquitted in the 1994 shooting death of Jimsher Dosanjh in a Vancouver alley. The trial received international attention when juror Gillian Guess slept with one of the accused.

CKNW

1 news

Gadgets in the bedroom are not only affecting sleep; they're also taking a toll on couples' love lives, say sleep experts. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Tornadoes and twisters laid waste to the U.S. Midwest Wednesday. Watch at metronews.ca/video.

Follow us on Twitter @vancouvermetro

Luminaries lambast C-10's approach to pot

Campaign to legalize marijuana has been picking up steam in Canada, especially in British Columbia

LISA MAREE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sir Richard Branson in Australia in July 2011.

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

Sir Richard Branson and other world business and political leaders are calling on Canada to rethink its stance on marijuana.

The leaders, in the form of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, want senators in Ottawa to scrap the mandatory minimum sentences for minor pot offences within Bill C-10 and even look at legalizing the drug.

"Tougher drug law enforcement tactics such as mandatory minimum sentencing for minor drug-law offences will put a huge strain on Canadian taxpayers," states an open letter released by the group. "(They) will not have the intended effect of creating safer communities, and will instead further entrench the marijuana industry in the hands of organized crime groups."

The commission is chaired by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former president of Brazil, and includes former presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Switzerland; businessmen like Virgin Group's Sir Richard Branson; former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz; United Nations dignitaries; and political writers.

The campaign to legalize marijuana has been picking up steam in Canada — especially in British Columbia, where the Stop the Violence B.C. coalition has sprouted up.

Stop the Violence counts four former premiers, current Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and a host of former or current politicians, public-health officials, agencies and law-enforcement groups among its ranks.

Seeking Stanley hits screens early

KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

▶ Shane Foxman

It is never too early to talk about the Vancouver Canucks and their hopes of winning the Stanley Cup this year — at least, not according to Shane Foxman and Karin Larsen, hosts of CBC's hit TV show Seeking Stanley.

The duo launched Seeking Stanley, a half-hour in-depth look into the Canucks' journey towards the holy grail of hockey, six weeks prior to the start of this years playoff run.

"We want to create an experience and take viewers (who can't be there) to the game," said Foxman. "You don't want to not know what happens after a game."

Viewers can expect longer interviews with players and coaches, reactions from the rink, and glimpses into the locker room during both home and road games.

Larsen believes that, compared to TSN or CBC's Hockey Night in Canada, the show will provide viewers with Canuck-based behind-the-scenes exclusives.

"It's all about the Canucks," said Larsen. "It's not super analytical and we're never going to talk about the Toronto Maple Leafs."

Seeking Stanley airs Saturday from 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., following Hockey Night in Canada After Hours.

KENDRA WONG

MISSING WOMEN'S INQUIRY

No earlier chance to nab Pickton, officer says

A retired RCMP officer who probed cases of vanishing Vancouver sex workers says there was no earlier chance to capture serial killer Robert Pickton until an unrelated search warrant cracked the case wide open.

Staff Sgt. Don Adam told the missing women's inquiry the Port Coquitlam pig farmer was a "priority suspect," but nothing singled him out among a long list of suspects.

Adam led the joint RCMP-Vancouver police task force known as Project Evenhanded that was formed in January 2001 to investigate hundreds of cases of missing women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PNE announces new summer concert series

MARK METCALFE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ben Harper

Want to watch a concert with the Northshore Mountains as a backdrop?

Vancouverites will get a chance to do just that.

The PNE announced Wednesday its partnership with Portlands Monqui Presents for a new concert series at its outdoor amphitheatre.

American folk-rock singer Ben Harper is the first confirmed artist and will perform July 4.

"The calibre and the variety of artists that the Monqui group is looking at bringing in is a fantastic addition to Vancouver's music offerings," PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance said.

Tickets go on sale March 9 at 10 a.m. at ticketleader.ca or 1-888-236-2947.

Other acts will be announced closer to the summer. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

Puppies rescued near Ladysmith

B.C. SPCA rescued seven severely emaciated puppies and their mother from a residence near Ladysmith on Monday. The 12-week-old German shepherd cross dogs were taken to Island Veterinary Hospital in Nanaimo, where doctors found rocks and sticks in the puppies' stomachs that they ate to stay alive. Animal-cruelty charges are pending against the owner. METRO

Dog shot in Vancouver Island field

A dog was shot on Monday in an open field on Vancouver Island, police said on Wednesday.

The malinois-wolf cross ran into the field while on a walk with its owner, who heard the shot soon after.

The shooting appears to have been intentional, police say.

The dog will likely make a full recovery, but it nevertheless may have sustained some nerve damage.

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FLICKR/SIFE SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

▶ A banner dress by a student from Eric Hamber Secondary school.

From rubbish to the runway

- Project aims to keep street banners out of landfills
- Three winning designers will receive scholarships

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

One man's garbage is another's gold, and if students at SFU Surrey have their way, the next big fashion trend might just be the Yaletown blouse or the Eastside umbrella.

Since 2008, the annual Banner Bags event has been using creative means to reuse so-called garbage by turning old street banners into reusable bags.

Now SFU students are taking it a step beyond, bringing in local secondary students to help turn the discarded nylon banners into something even more inventive — high fashion.

600

The Banner Bags project has kept more than 600 kilograms of nylon out of landfills since its creation.

Garments created for the upcoming Beyond the Bag event include a jacket, a trench coat, a blouse and an umbrella.

"They've been incredibly creative," said the event's external co-ordinator Xinyan Chen, an SFU student.

"It's turning into more of a science fair than a fashion show."

On March 8, 21 students from seven high schools will show off their designs at the SFU Surrey mezzanine. The three winning designers will receive a post-secondary scholarship.

Since its creation, the Banner Bags project has kept more than 600 kilograms of nylon out of landfills.

"We'll definitely be doing this again in the future," Chen said.

For more info visit bannerbags.ca.

For more local news, visit metronews.ca/vancouver

More than half of British Columbians see bullying as a crime: Poll

The power of pink just got stronger.

A new Angus Reid poll released Wednesday shows a majority of British Columbians are ready to accept bullying as a crime.

Fifty-five percent of those polled in B.C. said they believe bullying should be a crime, even with no physical violence.

Across Canada, the online survey of 1,006 Canadian adults found that 65 per cent of respondents believe bullying should be considered a criminal activity.

The results were released on National Pink Shirt Day, a campaign that encourages students to wear something pink to show they don't tolerate bullying.

Bullying itself is not an offence under the Criminal Code, but behaviours associated with it, such as harassment, mischief, theft and uttering threats, can lead to criminal charges.

The poll also found there's overwhelming support for legislation against cyber-bullying, with nine in 10 Canadians saying they would like to see a law enacted in their own province similar to one proposed in the U.S. that would make it illegal to use electronic means to "coerce, intimidate, harass or cause other substantial emotional distress."

A large proportion of Canadians believe high school (94 per cent) is the worst environment for bullying, followed by elementary school (88 per cent) and college and university (43 per cent), the report found.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

Memorial planned for French resort worker

A memorial is being planned for a 31-year-old French woman found dead just steps from her home at the Apex Mountain Resort near Penticton.

Apex general manager James Shalman says the tightly knit resort community is grieving the death of Benoite Camille Marye, who was employed at the ski hill as a life attendant and died of unknown causes. The woman was found Monday morning, collapsed on a path, hours after leaving a gathering for the short walk home.

Shalman says Marye's parents and brother are travelling from France and a memorial will be scheduled when they arrive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP demands review after C-difficile outbreaks

The NDP is demanding an independent review of infection control at Burnaby General Hospital after the facility recorded 473 cases of infections from the C-difficile bacteria over the last two years, including 84 patients who died.

In question period in Victoria on Wednesday, Opposition health critic Mike Farnworth read from a statement by doctors at the hospital that said the situation presents a case of medical negligence that could result in legal action.

He demanded the government call in the B.C. Centre for Disease Control to conduct an outside review of infection control at the hospital.

Health Minister Mike De Jong says the government is closely tracking infection rates and working with clinicians to address the problem, but he notes outbreaks of C-difficile plague hospitals around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. joins OxyContin boycott

B.C. is joining several other provinces in dropping coverage for the powerful painkiller OxyContin as the drug's maker switches to a new product called OxyNEO. The government will only cover OxyNEO on what it calls an "exceptional case-by-case" basis, except for palliative-care patients, who will continue to have the drug paid for by Pharmacare.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Budget guest has a history

LEGISLATURE. A staffer with B.C.'s governing Liberal party has resigned after a convicted criminal was invited to the legislature to watch the budget speech.

Premier Christy Clark has acknowledged that Jaspal Atwal, who was convicted for his role in a failed plot to kill an Indian cabinet minister in 1986, was in the public gallery during last Tuesday's budget address in Victoria.

The premier's office confirmed that Tariq Ghuman, who was a regional director for the party in the Vancouver area, has resigned his position.

Radio station CKNW reported the contents of Ghuman's resignation letter to party president Sharon White: Ghuman takes responsibility for inviting Atwal, describing it as an "error of judgment."

An email and telephone call to Ghuman were not immediately returned.

Clark has promised to investigate how guests are screened before they're allowed into the legislature. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Smithers won't back pipeline

OPPOSITION. Smithers has joined Terrace, Prince Rupert and the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District in opposing the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project.

Smithers councillors voted to oppose the multibillion-dollar pipeline after defeating a similar motion last month. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Meters not so smart?

Downtown protesters spell out their worries BC Hydro stands firm

KENDRA WONG
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

There goes the neighbourhood..
FACTS about Smart Meters - mandated to be installed on your home without your consent
BC Hydro started installation July 4, 2011
A Mayor's Warning

▶ Lisa Schwabe outside BC Hydro's downtown offices on Wednesday.

A small group of concerned citizens gathered outside BC Hydro's corporate offices downtown Wednesday to demand the right to choose between smart meters and current analogue devices.

"I have no problem with the choice of wireless technology, but there's no choice here," said Tanesa Kiso from Citizens for Safe Technology Society (CST).

"The way this is being handled is completely an affront to my democracy. I want a choice."

BC Hydro plans to install 1.8 million smart meters in homes and businesses by December.

Kiso, along with a dozen other protesters, are concerned about health risks, invasion of privacy and bill increases associated with smart meters.

But BC Hydro stands firmly behind its smart-meter plans.

"We would never put the safety of our customers at risk," said Gary Murphy, chief project officer of the smart-meter program. "Provincial and national health authorities … have confirmed that wireless meters pose no known health risk."

Protesters are demanding the option to opt out of the smart-meters program, allowing them to keep their analogue devices.

About 21,000 British Columbia residents have signed a petition against the installation of smart meters, added Una St. Clair, executive director of CST.

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PM: It's a robocall smear

Harper accuses NDP, Liberals in Commons ◗ But who's this mysterious Pierre Poutine? ◗ And what's the secret of Separatist Street in Quebec?

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ For the third straight day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper faced a barrage of robocall allegations in the Commons.

A mysterious "Pierre Poutine" and Prime Minister Stephen Harper were front and centre in the robocalls furor on Wednesday.

Harper said allegations the Tories were behind misleading and harassing calls to voters in the last federal election are nothing but a smear campaign by the NDP and Liberals.

"The Conservative party can say absolutely, definitively, it has no role in any of this," Harper told the House of Commons.

He also added a new element to his counter-attack when he challenged the NDP and Liberals to provide proof to Elections Canada that the Tories were behind the calls.

Elections Canada is investigating reports that voters in Guelph got calls from a 450-area-code number directing them to the wrong polling station.

Phone records show the number behind the calls belonged to a cellphone registered to Pierre Poutine of "Separatist Street" in Joliette, Que.

Elections Canada's chief investigator says in a sworn court document the name was likely used to cover the tracks of whoever was behind the calls.

Phone records show the number registered to Pierre Poutine twice called Edmonton-based call centre RackNine Inc., on April 30 and May 1.

The records also show phones associated with Guelph Tory candidate Marty Burke and the Guelph Conservative riding association made 31 calls to RackNine between March 26 and early May.

The court document says it is reasonable to believe Burke's campaign did business with RackNine and that the relationship is related to the calls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, pictured in Myanmar on Sunday, spoke to a Carleton University audience by video link.

SUU KYI TO CANADA: KEEP US IN YOUR HEART

Tears welled in Jasmine Bowen's eyes as she addressed the giant video image of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

She choked out the words: "You're my hero!"

Bowen, 24, had come from Toronto with her grandmother, who fled Burma nearly 50 years ago, to hear Suu Kyi speak to Canadians.

An Internet link between her Myanmar home — where she has spent most of the past two decades under house arrest — brought Suu Kyi to an auditorium of students and Burmese nationals at Carleton University.

For about half an hour on Wednesday, the 66-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner was larger than life on screen.

"Canada has helped us greatly" in the march to democracy," Suu Kyi said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seven so far will sit on jury in Tori trial

Seven people have been chosen for a jury in the trial of a man accused in the death of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford.

Michael Rafferty, 31, pleads not guilty in London, Ont., to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Tori disappeared in Woodstock, Ont., on April 8, 2009. Her body was found three months later.

Terri-Lynne McClintic has already been convicted of first-degree murder.

Potential jurors have been told the trial is expected to last between two and a half and three months, possibly extending into June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

7

Five women and two men have been selected for a jury of 12 and two alternates.

News in brief

School backed for gun call

TORONTO. School officials who called authorities after a four-year-old girl drew a picture of her dad holding a gun shouldn't be condemned for their actions, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday.

The girl's father, Jessie Sansone, was handcuffed and strip-searched.

Police searched their Kitchener, Ont., home, but the closest thing they found to a firearm was a toy gun. No charges were laid.

"I don't think there's any doubt about the sincerity of the school and the teachers involved that there was a genuine concern," McGuinty said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big winners house-proud

TORONTO. All they wanted was a little money to renovate the bathroom and kitchen, but an eastern Ontario couple who collected a $50-million lottery jackpot Wednesday say they're buying a whole new house.

JoAnn and Gaetan Champagne of Hawkesbury, Ont., initially misread the results of their Lotto Max win and thought they were getting $50,000.

When they realized the prize was in millions, they were dumbfounded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Asbestos toll a fantasy?

MONTREAL The Canadian asbestos sector wants Ottawa's help to challenge a death-toll estimate from the World Health Organization that says asbestos-related diseases kill more than 100,000 people every year.

A leading industry player says the estimate by the WHO, the United Nations health authority, is an exaggeration based on unfounded evidence.

"Where are those deaths? And name at least 10 of those deaths," Bernard Coulombe said from the Quebec town of Asbestos. "It's absolutely a fantasy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds back space station, but also plan cash cuts

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canadian Space Agency president Steve MacLean calls Ottawa's commitment "a major milestone."

The federal government will commit to the International Space Station for another five years.

And that should mean Canadian astronauts will return to space sooner than expected.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis says Canada will extend its commitment to the space station for 2015 to 2020.

His announcement in Quebec City on Wednesday came as the heads of foreign space agencies were arriving there for a conference where they plan to discuss the space station's future.

It also came amid heightened concern within the space community, with the federal government about to embark on significant spending cuts.

The government says the Canadian Space Agency's budget will fall 14 per cent, to $363 million, with the expiry of previous commitments.

There could be even deeper cuts in the March 29 federal budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian doctor in fraud case

A Canadian doctor in Texas has been charged over massive health-care fraud.

It's alleged the plan involved bilking Medicare and Medicaid of nearly $375 million.

Jacques Roy, 54, is charged with health-care fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud. Authorities moved to seize cash in Roy's bank accounts, cars and two sailboats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

100

Jacques Roy, a 54-year-old doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas, faces up to 100 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

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Storms ravage U.S. Midwest

At least 12 killed, dozens injured after deadly tornadoes slam region

A pre-dawn twister flattened entire blocks of homes in a small Illinois town Wednesday as violent storms pummelled the U.S. Midwest and South, killing at least 12 people in three states.

Winds also ripped through the country-music mecca of Branson, Mo., damaging some of the city's famed theatres just days before the start of the busy tourist season.

The storm that blasted Harrisburg in southern Illinois, killing six, was an EF4, the second-highest rating given to twisters based on damage. Scientists said it was 200 yards wide with winds up to 170 miles per hour.

By midday, townspeople in the community of 9,000 were sorting through piles of debris and mourning their dead while the winds still howled around them.

"The theatre next to me kind of exploded.... It went everywhere. Power lines are down. Windows are blown out."
BRANSON DINER OWNER

Three people were reported killed in eastern Tennessee — two in Cumberland County and another in DeKalb County — as storms collapsed homes and downed power lines there.

The twisters were spawned by a powerful storm system that blew down from the Rockies on Tuesday and was headed toward the East Coast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DARRIN PHEGLEY/THE GLEANER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Kendra McKinley pulls a flag from the debris of her grandparents' home in Henderson, Ky.

Fishing vessel delaying Costa Allegra rescue, official says

The disabled Italian cruise liner Costa Allegra will spend an additional 10 to 12 hours at sea without electricity, air conditioning or toilets because a French fishing vessel that was first to respond to the drifting liner refused to give way to faster tugboats, a Seychelles government official said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the cruise line denied that the tow would have been faster with the tugs and said the ship was always scheduled to reach the Seychelles' main port on Thursday.

The government minister, Joel Morgan, said the ship likely would have arrived in port on Wednesday night local time if the tugs had been permitted to take over.

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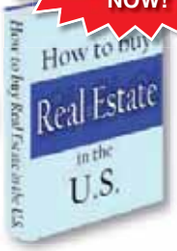

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Khadr may be headed North

Report claims Canadian convicted of terrorism will swap Guantanamo Bay for Ontario prison

JANET HAMLIN, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Canadian Omar Khadr destined to leave the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to serve the remainder of his sentence in Guantanamo North?

A report this week in Montreal's LaPresse stated that the 25-year-old Toronto-born Khadr will be imprisoned at the vacant Millhaven immigration centre in Ontario, derisively dubbed Guantanamo North.

The $3.2-million, six-bunk facility, was built in 2006 to house non-Canadian terrorism suspects held on controversial national security certificates.

Despite its name, and aside from the isolation, the Millhaven facility is hardly comparable to the Guantanamo cell where Khadr is now — or many of Canada's federal prisons where he could be held.

"No one has told Omar, or us, anything about when he can expect to be transferred."
KHADR'S LAWYER JOHN NORRIS

As Hassan Almrei, who was held there before a federal court judge dismissed his case, said in a 2007 interview, "I'm lucky to be detained in this country. I'm not denying that. (But) they're not talking about the colour of the clothes, it's the principle. The principle of Guantanamo Bay."

A Canadian government official had previously told the Toronto Star that Ottawa was also considering the Quebec penitentiary where the majority of those convicted of terrorism offences are serving their sentences, including some members of the so-called Toronto 18 plot.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

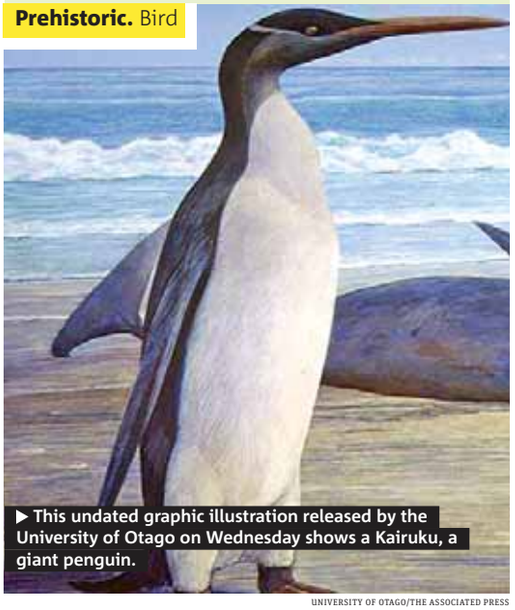
N. Korea suspends nuclear activities

North Korea raised hopes Wednesday for a major easing in nuclear tensions under its youthful new leader, agreeing to suspend uranium enrichment at a major facility and refrain from missile and nuclear tests in exchange for a mountain of critically needed U.S. food aid.

It was only a preliminary step but a necessary one to restart broader six-nation negotiations that would lay down terms for what the North could get in return for abandoning its nuclear-weapons program. Pyongyang pulled out of those talks in 2009 and seemingly has viewed the nuclear program as key to the survival of its dynastic, communist regime, now entering its third generation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prehistoric. Bird



▶ This undated graphic illustration released by the University of Otago on Wednesday shows a Kairuku, a giant penguin.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant penguin on display

Experts from New Zealand and the United States have reconstructed the fossil skeleton of a giant penguin — from roughly 26 million years ago — for the first time, revealing long wings, a slender build and a spearlike bill that have it being described as one elegant bird.

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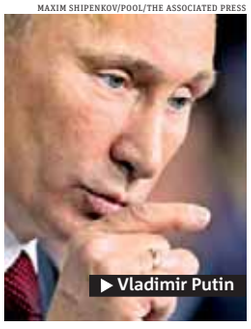

▶ Vladimir Putin

Putin warns of a rumble

Russian presidential candidate predicts unsanctioned protests post-election will result in violence

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned that his opponents could provoke unrest after Sunday's presidential election, even going so far as killing a prominent opposition figure to stoke outrage against his government.

Putin is all but certain to regain the presidency, but his allegations Wednesday reflect heightened tensions four days before the vote and nervousness about the protests expected to follow.

"They are looking among well-known people for a sacrificial victim," said Putin. "They could, I'm sorry, knock someone off and then blame the authorities."

Evidence of widespread vote-rigging in favour of Putin's party in December's parliamentary election set off a series of protests to demand an end to Putin's 12-year rule.

The opposition is pushing authorities to allow a post-election protest at a site close to the Kremlin. The government has refused the demand, offering other more distant locations instead.

The organizers have rejected that offer, raising the threat of violence.

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Volunteers to monitor the vote

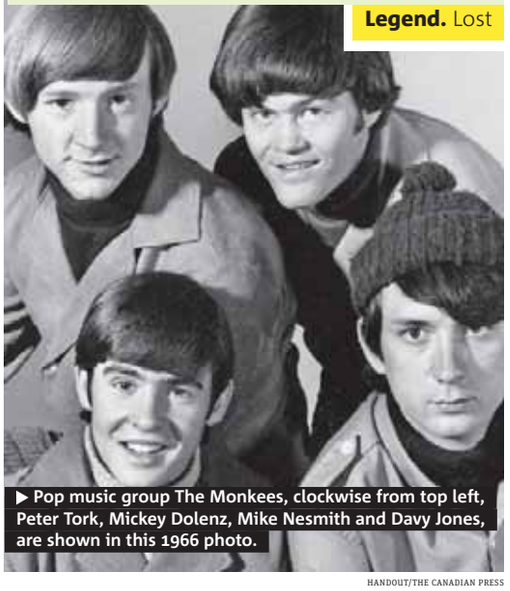
Until a few months ago, Sergei Rassypnov, a real-estate agent, cared little about politics and Vladmir Putin.

That all changed in December, when evidence of rampant election fraud by Putin's party triggered a wave of protest: Suddenly, for legions of urban Russians, apathy and indifference were transformed into a startling new activism.

Today, Rassypnov is among tens of thousands of Russians who have signed up to monitor Sunday's presidential election, in which Prime Minister Putin aims to reclaim the presidency he held for eight years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legend. Lost



▶ Pop music group The Monkees, clockwise from top left, Peter Tork, Mickey Dolenz, Mike Nesmith and Davy Jones, are shown in this 1966 photo.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Monkees frontman dies

Davy Jones, the heartthrob singer who helped propel the made-for-TV rock band The Monkees, died of a heart attack Wednesday. He was 66. Born in England, Jones had boyish good looks and a British accent that endeared him to legions of screaming young fans.

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Grandpa found guilty of abuse

A U.S. man has been found guilty of child abuse for forcing his grandsons on gruelling hikes in the Grand Canyon.

A jury found 45-year-old Christopher Alan Carlson guilty Wednesday for the three forced hikes of more than 24 kilometres each last August. His three grandsons were eight, nine and 12 years old.

The oldest grandson described secretly asking a hiker to call emergency services after he started throwing up and falling down because of cramping.

All three boys said Carlson pushed, choked and kicked them during the hikes.

Carlson had pleaded not guilty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Clinton backs Keystone XL

- Former president comes out in favour of controversial $7.6B pipeline project
- Wife Hillary to decide on its fate

Bill Clinton, the keynote speaker at the Department of Energy's conference for clean-technology startup companies in Maryland, put in his two cents on the Keystone XL pipeline project on Wednesday.

He wondered aloud why TransCanada didn't originally propose to build the pipeline around an environmentally fragile area of Nebraska.

"The extra cost of (rerouting the pipeline) is infinitesimal compared to the revenue that will be generated over a long period of time," he said.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, testifying later in the day to the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee hearings into energy security, was asked about her husband's remarks. "He's a very smart man," she said to laughter. "But he, unfortunately, is not bound by the laws and regulations any longer of the United States to make decisions that follow a certain procedure. And that's what we have to do."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline Heat

The Obama administration has deferred making a decision on the pipeline until after the election.

- **Pipeline proponents cried** foul, saying it was a tactic aimed at pacifying environmentalists among Obama's base in advance of the election.

KEVIN GLACKMEYER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shares a laugh with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, in Selma, Ala., in 2007.

News in brief

Flaherty to deliver general budget

PROPOSAL. The federal government will unveil its much-awaited austerity budget on March 29.

But Flaherty said on Wednesday that the budget will not lay out in specifics where the government plans to find between $4 billion and $8 billion in annual savings over the course of the next three years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty tweaks oil comments

POLITICS. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty tried Wednesday to turn down the heat generated by his comments last Monday about preferring a lower dollar to a growing oil-and-gas sector in Western Canada. McGuinty admitted he was "a bit surprised" by the extent of the blowback from his comments. "I think I should clarify ... we are very, very proud of the work that is being done by Canadians ... to strengthen our country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Portugal shuts U.S. crime case

FUGITIVE. Portugal won't extradite American fugitive George Wright to the United States for crimes he committed there four decades ago. Police captured the 68-year-old near the capital, Lisbon, in September, ending his more than 40 years on the lam after escaping from a New Jersey prison.

A Lisbon court in November refused a U.S. request to send Wright back to serve the rest of his sentence. A judge ruled that the statute of limitations had expired.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murdoch son steps down

Rupert's youngest resigns chair of News International Will stay on as deputy COO of News Corp.

James Murdoch, the executive at the epicentre of the phone-hacking scandal at his father's British newspapers, is stepping down as executive chairman of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper arm.

News Corp. said in a statement Wednesday that James, the youngest son of 80-year-old media mogul Rupert Murdoch, has given up his position at News International to concentrate on the company's television business.

The 39-year-old will remain deputy chief operating officer of News Corp., but the move plucks the one-time heir apparent to his father's global empire away from a firestorm over his role in Britain's phone-hacking scandal.

1.6% News Corp. shares set a 52-week high in New York after the news broke, rising 1.6 per cent to $20.11 a share.

"James' resignation was inevitable," said Louis Ureneck, a journalism professor at Boston University. "He either condoned the hacking or was irresponsibly unaware. Neither is acceptable in a top executive of a media company."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manhattan. Demonstration

▶ An Occupy Wall Street protester makes her feelings known during a march toward New York's Bryant Park.

JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupied once again

There was a heavy police presence around New York's 42nd Street as a demonstration began on Wednesday morning. Protesters marched on the offices of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

Navajo Nation sues over trademark

MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The native American Navajo Nation has sued Urban Outfitters months after the band sent a cease-and-desist letter to the clothing retailer demanding it pull the "Navajo" name from its products. The lawsuit filed late Tuesday in U.S. District Court in New Mexico alleges trademark violations as well as violations of the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act.

Urban Outfitters set off a firestorm of criticism last year with its line of Navajo-branded clothing and accessories — particularly underwear and a liquor flask.

The company has declined to comment on the suit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
- 96.46 (12,644.01)	+ 0.60¢ (101.06¢ US)	+ $0.52 US ($107.07 US)	$2.54 US (+ 1.9¢ US)	$1,711.30 US (- $77.10 US)

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Metropolis at Metrotown
Oakridge Centre
Orchard Park Shopping Centre
Park Royal Shopping Centre
Richmond Centre
Seven Oaks Shopping Centre

TOUCHSCREEN

Microsoft shows off Windows 8

Microsoft on Wednesday let consumers start trying out its upcoming touch-based Windows 8 operating system, which aims to power a new wave of computer tablets and traditional PCs designed to counter Apple's big gains in the market through its Macs and iPads.

The test "beta" version of the revamped system was introduced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, the world's largest cellphone trade show.

Windows 8 applications are spread across a mosaic of tiles that can be navigated with a finger swipe on the screen or with a keyboard and mouse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook to integrate ads with content

Hopes to attract major brands to tell their 'stories' to targeted users Needs to boost value before IPO

Messages from brands such as Walmart and Starbucks may soon be mixed in with your Facebook status updates and baby photos from friends and family.

Facebook unveiled new advertising opportunities Wednesday to help the world's biggest brands spread their messages on the world's largest online social network.

Brands you've endorsed by hitting the "like" button will now be able to push deals and other updates right into the news feeds that show your friends' updates, photos and links. These posts could also show up if one of your friends has interacted with a brand, such as by liking it or commenting on a photo.

The changes come ahead of Facebook's initial public offering of stock, expected this spring. The IPO could value the company at as much as $100 billion US. That means Facebook has to prove it can bring in real advertising revenue from the likes of Walmart, Procter & Gamble and other massive brands.

"Facebook ... (is) not making serious money from major brand advertisers," said Rebecca Lieb, an analyst with the Altimeter Group. "They currently have rather low-rent, shoddy ads on Facebook."

This could now change as Facebook moves to integrate brands' messages into the news feeds of its 845 million users.

Rather than bombarding people with flashy ads, Facebook is urging companies to integrate themselves into what people are already doing on the site — talking to their friends and family, commenting on photos or posting news links. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cautious change

Facebook will collect feedback and test out how its users respond to the changes.

- **At first** users may see just one message a day from a brand inside their news feed.
- **Users** won't see messages from random companies they are not connected to in some way — only directly or through a friend.

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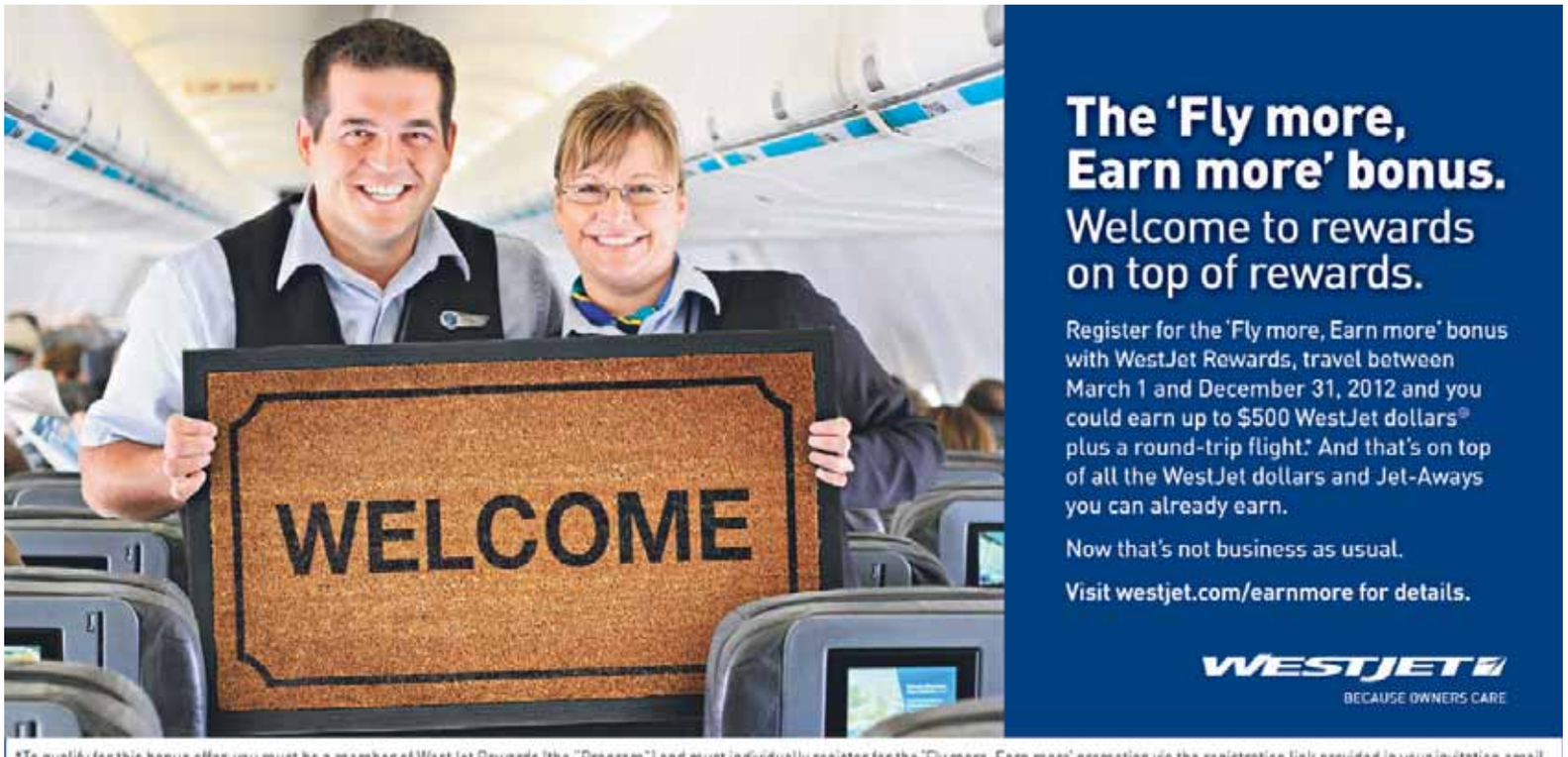
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WHEN IN DOUBT, AD LIB

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm just talking off the top of my head here, but I miss performing improv comedy.

Writing humour is satisfying, sure — especially that special moment when you see your name ~~on a paycheque~~ in a newspaper. But the delayed, distant feedback can make you feel like you have fewer readers than the iTunes service agreement.

In contrast, and as Mitt Romney would tell you, there's no greater thrill than the instant response you receive when you get on stage and make stuff up.

If you're not aware, improvisation is a form of theatre that has spawned many comedic troupes, some serious theatre, certain art-house films and the Iraq war.

Generally, the idea is simply to make things up on the spot, often with an audience suggestion, which in theory can be absolutely anything, but which in practice is always "sex," "horny," "circus," "bus stop" or "spatula."

If that sounds like kids' stuff, rest assured there are some deep lessons to be learned.

"When you accept what the scene gives you and don't try too hard, then everything that happens is 'right,' the possibilities are endless and things naturally fall into place. There's a lesson in there somewhere."

For instance, one of the improv rules you organically discover is "Don't try to be funny." Some would argue I've mastered that.

But the point is that humour should arise from strong characters and a well-told story. When you tell a conventional punchline joke during improv the audience reply is a rising-then-falling "aaAAAaah" sound, which means "Clever. Not funny. But clever. Now be funny."

Another improv life lesson, perhaps the most important one, is to accept what the world gives you.

If another actor turned to you on stage and said, "Hi, Donald Trump!" then your natural, human reaction would be to punch him in the throat. But improv teaches you that scenes work best if you accept every suggestion — so you scowl in a Trumpian manner and wonder what it must be like to know that even a billion dollars isn't enough for a decent hairpiece.

When you accept what the scene gives you and don't try too hard, then everything that happens is "right," the possibilities are endless, and things naturally fall into place. There's a lesson in there somewhere.

Improv is fun, challenging and, yes, can give you a better outlook on life. I think you should try it.

And if you don't have the energy or gumption or whatever excuse you're using not to do it, just remember what an audience member once told me during an introspective moment: "Horny!"

Words to live by.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

The Junos are set for April 1. With William Shatner as host, will you be watching?

60%
NO. SOUNDS LIKE AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

40%
YES. BEAM ME UP!

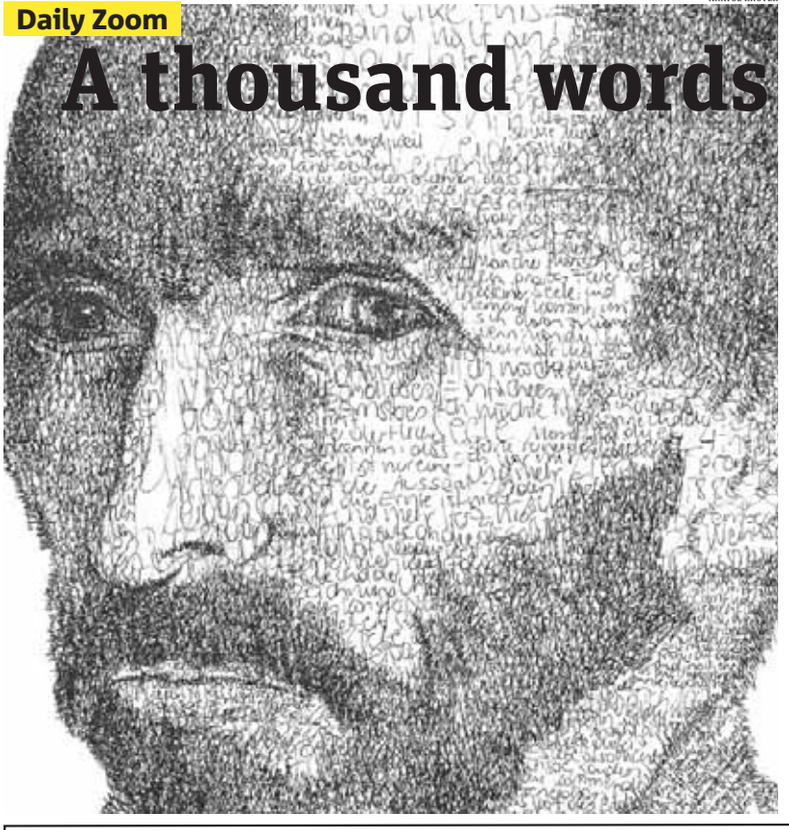
Local tweets

- **@HastingsPAC:** @george abbottbc @saraspilchen A report card is way down on most parent's list of what is important in schools. #bced
- **@saraspilchen:** @joezaccaria IF teachers aren't "special employees" then why declared an essential service and legislated against? #bced
- **@JoannaLLarson:** All together, Bill22 includes significant violation of rights that recognize important role&contribution of BC lib's in breaking law #bced
- **@vlnenglish:** my students and parents already worried about a strike. Mediation would be best! #bced #bcpoli
- **@peterdmare:** #bced If teachers are essential services, why don't you show them that they are? Emphasize on SHOW. Action speaks louder than words.
- **@CatherineNovak:** Nonsense @CatherineNovak #bced Giving principals the right to hire and fire will only lead to nepotism and corruption in our school system

Daily Zoom

ANATOL KNOTEK

A thousand words



Artist 'writes' famous portraits

PORTRAITURE. This sketch of the great Vincent van Gogh can speak for itself. Artist Anatol Knotek creates faces composed from his own handwriting. Knotek, whose works allude to 1960s avant-garde poetry, has also "written" stunning portraits of Bob Dylan, Pablo Picasso and Nobel Prize laureate Hermann Hesse. MWN

▶ Anatol Knotek

60 seconds

Anatol Knotek, 34, artist from Vienna

What's the idea behind your "handwritten" portraits?
They're meant to blur the borders between poetry and fine art. For me, it's a type of communication, pairing the act of writing and the art of painting. It's "visual poetry."

What do you write?
A mixture of my own writing and words associated with the person I'm drawing. In this portrait, I used some passages taken from van Gogh's letters. I also added some sentences from Theo van Gogh's letter to his mother that reported his famous brother's death.

And how do you write your drawings?
I first make the sketch with a pencil and then I begin the writing process with a permanent felt-tip pen. I use small, simple words for the details, then larger letters for the overall appearance. It can take about two weeks to do one such portrait.

What inspired your work?
Concrete poetry — poetic verses that are arranged in a shape or pattern for added visual effect.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

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DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB

▶ Marci T. House, left, and Marsha Regis in the Arts Club Theatre Company's production of Intimate Apparel.

An intimate performance

Intimate Apparel running until Mar. 10 at Granville Island Stage ◐ Take a trip back in time

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

Always the bridesmaid, never the bride.

That's the thread running through the Arts Club production, Intimate Apparel.

Well, kind of.

Set in 1905 New York, the story follows Esther (Marci T. House), a 35-year-old African American woman making a living sewing high-end undergarments and corsets for blushing brides-to-be. But oh how she'd love to wear one of her own creations. And, as luck would have it, a pen-pal relationship blossoms into something that might just be what the seamstress ordered.

Local actress Marsha Regis plays Esther's client and friend, Mayme, a prostitute who lives and works in the Tenderloin district.

"I love Mayme!" exclaims Regis. "She's so easy to dismiss as a poor black prostitute, however I've found her to be smart, warm and loving."

She adds: "The play has it all: laughter, romance, sex, scandal, intrigue and love. (And the role) is great because I get to learn about a different time and place … Playing a character from a different era is the ultimate in make-believe — it's a lot of fun."

The play is written by Lynn Nottage, who Arts Club managing director Bill Millerd touts as "one of the leading playwrights in American theatre today."

Also starring Anna Cummer, Lesley Ewen, Daren Herbert and Jonathon Young. Directed by John Cooper.

Intimate Apparel runs until March 10 at Granville Island Stage. Tickets are $29-$49. More information at artsclub.com.

Other events

What else is going on?

▶ **TREW THAT** The Trews perform at the Vogue Theatre Saturday night with special guests Poor Young Things. Tickets $27.50 at LiveNation.com.

▶ **JUST ANNOUNCED** Zeus plays the Biltmore Cabaret with guests on May 26. Tickets, $15, go on sale tomorrow morning at 10 via LiveNation.com. Also available at Zulu, Highlife, Red Cat Records and Wireless Box Office.

Reese talks to her kids about abuse

Actress Reese Witherspoon has had the talk with her two young children.

Not the sex talk.

The domestic violence talk.

As a global ambassador for Avon's efforts to help victims of domestic violence, Witherspoon travelled to the Washington area to speak to the second World Conference of Women's Shelters, prompting a talk with Ava, 12, and Deacon, 8.

Though her kids were shocked to hear how one in three women is abused in this country, Witherspoon said it was important for them to be aware of the problem, especially her daughter who's almost old enough to date.

At a time when bullies are responding with violence, Witherspoon also says parents must educate themselves and their children about social media and "what constitutes harassment, what is acceptable and what is not."

Witherspoon says talking publicly "creates empowerment" among women and helps them feel they're not alone. She said it often gives them the courage to go to a shelter or take legal action that could save their lives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Reese Witherspoon

2 scene

Oprah

Oprah Winfrey is bringing her life lessons north of the border for a TV event sure to rank among her Canadian fans' favourite things. The 58-year-old TV legend has added Toronto as the latest stop on Oprah's Lifeclass Tour. A portion of the day-long event will be broadcast live on April 16 on the talk giant's network, OWN.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Musical 'Carrie' becomes the third high-profile re-imagined work in New York this season

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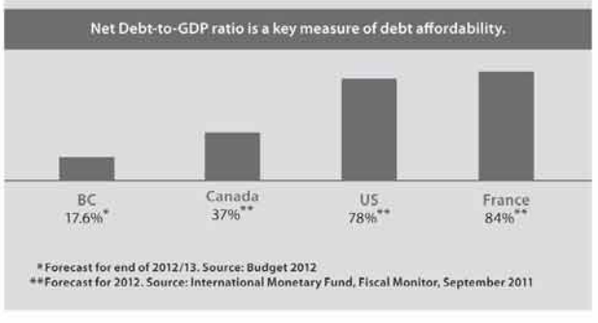

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- Extending the Training Tax Credit program to help employers and workers take part in apprenticeship programs
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DeVito goes global

For The Lorax, actor took on the task of recording voices in four foreign languages

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Danny DeVito is becoming quite the multilinguist — or at least that's what it looks like. For his new film, The Lorax, DeVito took on the unprecedented task of recording foreign versions of the movie in Spanish, Italian, German and Russian. It turned out to be a much more monumental task than he'd expected, though. "It's a fun thing, but it's time-consuming. I thought it was going to be like a couple of days. I'll do German in a couple days. Right! It's more like a week," he admits.

"This is the thing, I don't speak any of those languages. I speak a tiny bit of Italian, but I did it all with coaches and phonetically," DeVito explains. "What I would do is tackle one at a time. And Universal brought in people from the country because sometimes the lines were very long. And there was no way for me in German or in Russian to get through that entire line without messing up some intonation. And I really wanted it to capture the performance, and I didn't want people to think I had an accent."

The process of recording each language took about five days in a recording studio for DeVito and his advisers, and the biggest lesson he learned in that time was that he should've kept things simpler when recording the English version — or at least stopped for a breath more often. "There are about 90 lines of mine in the movie, and some of them sometimes you can't break them up," he explains. "Like if you say to me, 'Coma esta usted?' That's one thing. Or in Italian if you say, 'una tazza di caffe' — that means a cup of coffee — it's easy. But if you're saying something like, 'Didn't you see me come out of that stump with all the lightning and the thunder and this and the that? Did you chop down that tree?' Well, I didn't think I was going to be doing this when I said those lines back then and didn't spit in the middle."

Normally, animated films get dubbed by local actors for each territory, so isn't he technically taking work away from actors in Europe? "I did some Russian interviews on the phone and different places, and I always preface it with, 'I know that you guys have great actors to do this,'" DeVito explains. "It was just one of those things where I got it in my head to do it, and once I said I would do it I didn't want to back down, even though I did think, well this time I'm taking a job away from someone."

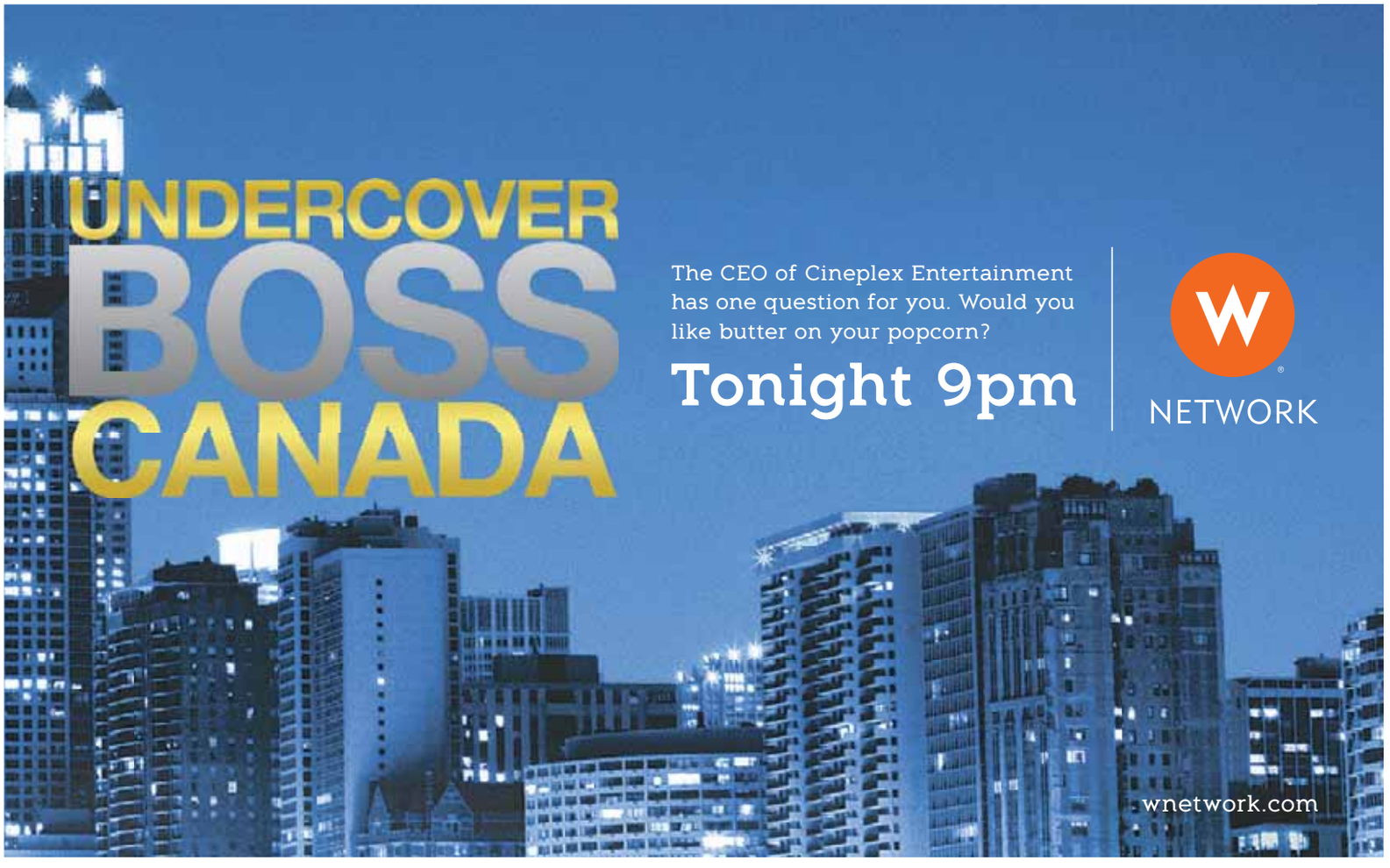
And as for other American stars who might be miffed that DeVito has now raised the bar for an animated film role? "Too bad for them," he says with a laugh.

HANDOUT

▶ Danny DeVito says doing the The Lorax in multiple language was fun but time consuming.

Indoctrination?

- Fox Business Channels' Lou Dobbs made waves recently by insisting that The Lorax is an insidious attempt to indoctrinate children into an anti-industry mindset. "The President's liberal friends in Hollywood [are] targeting a younger demographic using animated movies to sell their agenda to children," Dobbs said.
- Aside from the fact that the message of the film is same as it was when Dr. Seuss published it 42 years ago, Danny DeVito insists the message is about being responsible while succeeding in business. "It's not saying that we can't be inventive and still think of things to sell or make or manufacture," DeVito explains. "But the idea is that if we're going to take the goods from the earth — the supplies, the materials from anywhere — we should think about the sustainability of it."



‘I’ve got six kids ... It was a lot of O.P.P.-ing!’

PAT HEALY
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN BOSTON

You can’t hear a party song without some “hey” and “ho” going on in the background. And you wouldn’t have ever heard that if it weren’t for Naughty by Nature.

The New Jersey crew have been churning out party anthems for more than 20 years, so it makes sense that they would call their latest album, Anthem Inc. In addition to new cuts, the album, which came out in the fall, also includes re-recorded versions of hits like Hip Hop Hooray and O.P.P.

MCs Treach and Vin Rock spoke to Metro about their work in the industry and their recent appearance on Yo! MTV Raps Classic Cuts.

What are some of the things you talked about on the show?

Treach: Backstage, behind-the-scenes things you’ve never heard. You never knew how naughty.

Vin: We talk about O.P.P. on there and how much O.P.P. we’ve scooped up over the years.

O.P.P. is the ultimate looking-for-action song. When it blew up, did you really live like that?

Treach: Hey, I’ve got six kids, homey. It was a lot of O.P.P.-ing!

Vin: And the thing was back then, a lot of the girls used to chase us after the concerts. And we’d hear them, “Yo, where you at? We all know you’re down with O.P.P.!”

Let’s talk about the cultural significance of that song, like when Axl Rose wore an O.P.P. hat.

Vin: Yeah, in the November Rain video! I remember that too, and I always bring that up. That was one of my favourite O.P.P. moments.

What’s another one?

Treach: Probably when Ed Lover and Todd 1 did Down with MTV. ... We met the great Michael Jackson before he passed, and had a chance to do a video with him and everything, and he said he loved the song. So for us, that was the biggest props that we could get on O.P.P. (which sampled the Jackson 5 song, ABC.)

Are you guys family men now, or are you still down with O.P.P.?

Treach: Family men. Ever since day one.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Naughty by Nature’s Treach, left, and Vin Rock.

So wait, you weren’t always down with O.P.P.?

Treach: There’s been little hiatuses (laughs).

50 Cent puts dollars into hunger fight

Rapper hopes to provide a billion meals to hungry children in Africa

ROSE OGLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

▶ 50 Cent on his trip to Africa.

When 50 Cent announced that part of the proceeds from his new energy drink would be used to help fight hunger in Africa, some questioned whether his motives were genuine.

But the rapper says he’s making a difference, and since a visit to the continent earlier this month, he’s a changed man.

“It enlightened me in different ways,” he said.

“To actually see people under the circumstances that I saw was a totally different experience. I don’t think you can prepare yourself for that, no matter how many times you’ve seen the images.”

The rapper-turned-humanitarian flew to Kenya and Somalia with World Food Program earlier this month to witness the effects of hunger first-hand.

50 Cent has a goal to provide one billion meals to hungry children over the next five years.

Every purchase of Street King, an energy drink the rapper promotes and launched last fall, will provide a meal for a person in need through the United Nations’ program.

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Awake blurs reality lines

New drama has viewers guessing what's a dream and what's real life

Awake has the kind of intricate, high-concept premise that can test viewers. But that's nothing compared with what its producers face.

Howard Gordon, a master at juggling challenging plots (24 and The X-Files among them), puts it flatly: "I learned nothing, and nothing I experienced prepared for me this."

"This is a vehicle that no one has driven before and has no operating instructions," said Gordon, who produces Awake with its creator, Kyle Killen.

The series, debuting 10 p.m. EST today on Global, stars Jason Isaacs as police detective Michael Britten, a man living in two worlds. A car accident has claimed a family member's life: his wife, Hannah (Laura Allen), in one, and his teenage son, Rex (Dylan Minnette), in another.

While other TV shows with parallel universes and outcomes have dabbled in extreme explanations — quick, explain Lost again — Gordon and Killen insist this is a (relatively) simple case of a guy living one life and dreaming another.

Britten and the audience are just not sure which is which. Neither are the therapists who are treating him, with both assuring him that his OTHER life is the dream. He's unwilling to give up the balancing act that allows him to keep hold of both wife and son.

"At the centre of it is the question we all live with as people, which is how do we face loss and how do we live in the face of loss," Gordon said.

The detective wears coloured wristbands to keep his lives straight. Isaacs insists viewers have it easier.

When the pilot was being developed, he said, there was concern that the idea was so tricky, his character might need to be bearded in one world and beardless in the other to help viewers distinguish between them.

"But my daughter, who's 5, told me the story in three sentences," Isaacs recalled.

"So I told the producers, 'We don't need to worry.' It's such a powerful and imaginative premise."

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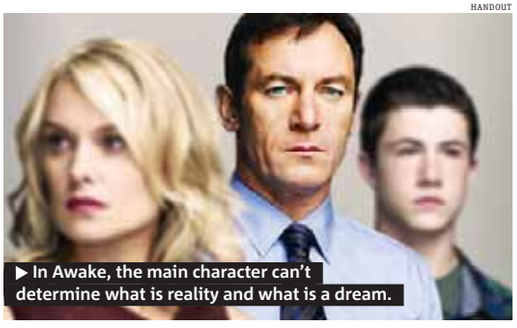

▶ In Awake, the main character can't determine what is reality and what is a dream.

Awake's tricks

Awake employs a classic trick to allow viewers to dip in at any point: It's what Gordon calls an "old-school title sequence" that restates the concept before each episode.

▶ "So if you tune in for episode seven, you have the tools to sit down and enjoy that hour of television," producer Howard Gordon says. "For an idea like this, clarity is your friend and you want to make the barrier as low as possible."

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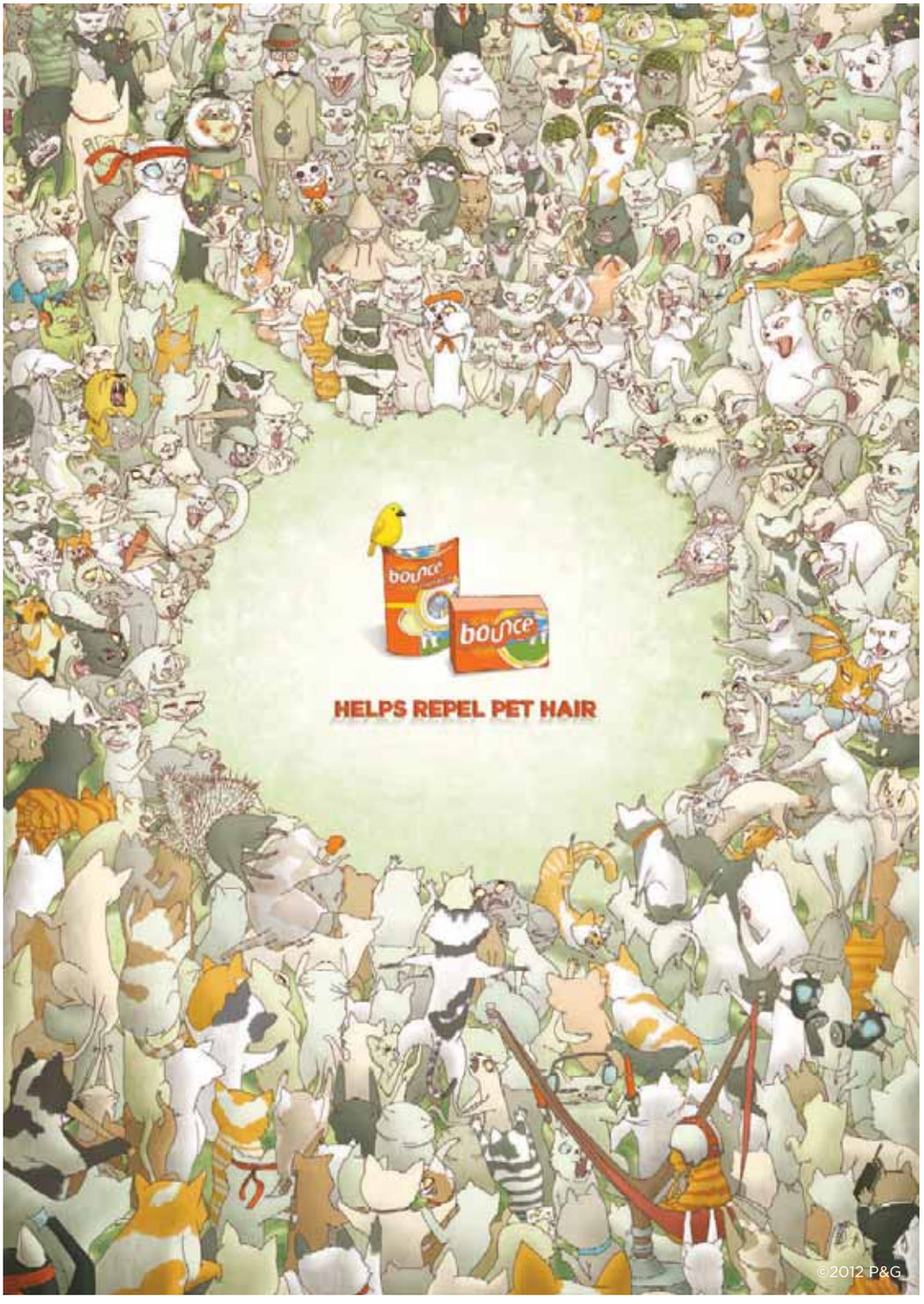

▶ Lindsay Lohan

‘I will not let anyone down’

Lindsay Lohan is mounting her comeback, starting with a stint hosting Saturday Night Live this week, and she knows there’s a lot at stake.

“I will not let anyone down, especially myself,” she says in an interview with the Today Show, starkly contrasting her last visit to the show, during which she denied having any problems at all.

“I wasn’t as comfortable with myself then. I think it was a fear factor that I had about what was really going on. And, you know, I had to get that wake-up call.”

METRO

Snooki pregnant?

MTV went into crisis mode after hearing news: Source

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THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Though she recently denied it, many news organizations are now reporting that Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi is indeed three months pregnant with boyfriend Jionni LaValle’s baby.

The Jersey Shore star is reportedly looking to make the most of the announcement — and has even brokered a deal for a cover story with Us Weekly.

Apparently, Snooki is looking to use her pregnancy to become “the next Kourtney Kardashian,” a source tells Page Six.

▶ Snooki

But reps at MTV aren’t as excited, since Snooki is currently filming a Jersey Shore spin-off chronicling her hard-partying lifestyle.

“MTV went into crisis mode after they found out,” the source says. “They’re trying to hide it because it would greatly affect the creative direction of the show.”

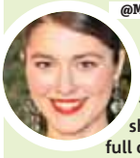
At first, I laughed at this because, well, “creative direction” and Jersey Shore spin-off do not go together.

But then it makes sense: MTV’s programming is filled with a million bad parenting reality shows, from Teen Mom to 16 and Pregnant. Even they probably loathe to air a segment of Snooki taking her baby for its first spray tan.

Celebrity tweets

@davidwain

Favor for me: if you liked Wanderlust, please email 100 friends and tell them to go see it. As thanks I’ll send you a Blue 2009 Honda Civic.


@M_E_Winstead

I just cut my hand with texturizing shears and full on passed out. Great way to start the day!

@hwinkler4real

YES we are a little behind in the Winkler household but ...BREAKING BAD..HAS OVER TAKEN ME now that’s tv

@Joan_Rivers

Both Jennifer Lopez and I have experienced nipple slips at the Oscars. The only difference is that mine was peeking out of an open-toe shoe.

Who will play Whitney in film?

Plans are reportedly already underway for a movie about Whitney Houston’s life, according to the Daily Mail.

Producer Clive Davis is behind the project, and while Jennifer Hudson, Vivica Fox and Jordin Sparks are reportedly on the list for the lead role, Davis is said to have his eye on Rihanna to play Houston.

And lest it seems like Davis is trying to cash in on his friend’s death, the film was reportedly already being developed before Houston passed away last month.

“Whitney knew about the project and was excited to see where it would lead,” a source says.

METRO

▶ Whitney Houston

Ben and Jen welcome third child

Jennifer Garner gave birth to a son Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif., according to People magazine. It’s the third child and first boy for Garner and husband Ben Affleck, who also have daughters Violet, 6, and Seraphina, 3.

▶ Affleck and Garner

Garner previously said that they knew the gender of the baby ahead of time but weren’t sharing that information.

“It would be so weird to have a boy,” she told Ellen DeGeneres during an interview last year.

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Peter Philips, global creative director of Chanel makeup, creates nail and lip colours that instantly sell out and spark wait lists Heed his advice for a natural, beautiful look

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WILLY WANDERPERRE

Peter Philips

The mouth vs. the eyes

"Being beautiful is as tough as you want to make it, but it doesn't have to be all about the pressure. There's no such thing as an ideal face. Who can measure that? A perfect face is one that expresses confidence and is happy with itself. When I speak to somebody I'm always drawn to their mouth, maybe that's because it's more comfortable than looking someone in the eyes. Also with the eyes, which eye do you look at? But all women should have an eyelash curler. This also applies to women who don't wear makeup. One pinch to the lashes can work miracles as it opens up your eyes and makes you look fresh and awake. Add some mascara and you're ready to go."

The face: The fine balance

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence. Something that always looks wrong is not blending your foundation in properly so that you can see the line between the face and the neck. It's so easy to avoid. Blend it out with your fingers or check the lighting in your bathroom."

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little makeup. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence."
PETER PHILIPS

Don't forget the inside

"Every phase of your life has beauty in it. We all want youth but at some point we have to realize that we're getting older and it's not all about foundation or mascara. If you eat and live wrong it will have an impact on your looks. You know the tricks: eat more vegetables, stop smoking, drink water and cut back on alcohol."

The nails: introducing April, May and June.

"The Le Vernis shades are anticipated not because of me but because they're Chanel. I have the advantage that I can link my creations with the fashion show, it gives them a reason to exist. May is pinky and girly and June has a beachy feel to it. It took 24 try-outs in the lab before we got the right shade for Le Vernis in June.

What's trending?

Trends, no. Seduction, yes.

"I don't create trends; it's the women who wear them that create them. My challenge is to develop shades that will seduce these women into buying them and the only way to seduce a women is by literally seducing her. I chose spring horizons; sunset and sunrise as it can be the most amazing moment of the day. I was afraid it would be a bit kitschy, mellow and corny, but it's also very beautiful. She can't be intimidated by the colours or feel like she's being forced into wearing something. She needs to stand in front of the counter or be reading a magazine and say, 'that's a shade I want to wear.'"

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker: 8 days of shows to cover in Paris. A fantasy for some... A lot of work for me! But not complaining. What's YOUR ultimate Paris fantasy?

- **@sarahohm:** "Audrey Hepburn in Funny Face" would be mine! #parisfantasy
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Oh yeah! To be a hot young model falling in love with a cool photographer... What a gorgeous cliche!
- **@Enriquemylove16:** live there go to champs elysees every weekend for shopping :P get to know people from there explore the fashion world #dream♥
- **@Mymsie7:** wow! I want to get to visit every beautiful spot in the city! And taste everything there is to taste! I want to go next year:)
- **@KendalLo:** Hands down Paris at Christmas & NYE. Long meals inside warm Parisian restaurants, lots of wine, good coffee and shopping.
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Oh YEAH! Nothing like guilt-free gorging in the City of Light! Worth every calorie!!!

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Star power

Sir Elton John

It was announced this week that Sir Elton John will be headlining Fashion Cares, the silver anniversary fundraising gala, to be held on September 9, 2012 at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto.

Chaired by Michael King and David Furnish, with cosmetics powerhouse MAC Viva Glam returning as title sponsor, the event will feature an intimate dinner, a retrospective of the past 25 years of Fashion Cares, and a live show performance by Sir Elton John and other high profile, international musicians.

METRO

Guy Laroche designer shows gem-inspired collection, and no skin, in Paris.

DESIGN CENTRE

Lose that 'bowling alley' look

Home decor guru Karl Lohnes tackles a reader's living room design dilemma

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

I recently moved into a new place and bought two open-style sofas for the living room to create a cosy but formal look. Now the room looks like a bowling alley. What can I do to fix this?

Tamara McCarthur, Toronto

CB2's Acrylic Tripod Easel, $199

Creating a symmetrical look with furnishings is an easy way to add a formal touch to any room. In your case, the positioning of the two couches guide the eye directly to the plain windows at the end of the room, creating the bowling alley effect.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This living room looks long and narrow. A few style tricks will help draw the eye to the sides of the room.

With no options of rearranging the sofas, try to find ways to divert the eye from going all the way to the end of the room. You can do this by adding a few interesting and useful accessories that make the eye go from side to side rather than to the end of the room. Here are a few suggestions:

Layered rugs not only look cool but can allow you to use a favourite too-small rug by laying a larger one underneath. A large horizontal striped 8-by-10-foot rug will help draw the eye across the room and make it look wider than it is. Now the room will have a size-appropriate rug while still incorporating your cool but smallish hidden rug.

One heavy wall of coloured art will quickly draw the eye to one side of the room rather than immediately to the end of the room. I suggest hanging the large print to the left of the room, then adding many small art pieces opposite to keep both walls filled. Other red accents, such as glass vases, candles and throws, will help add a bit more colour into the room.

Place something airy in the corner to round out the room. A whimsical tall plant, étagère or art easel will help. When you fill in the corners of a room you'll then help shorten the space into a better proportion.

Consider an art easel holding a tiny, bright-coloured painting or becoming the stand for a plasma television... different, interesting and unique! A not too heavy looking display or serving table in front of the window to display flowers, framed photos or use for serving when guests visit will anchor the end of the room by saying 'look at me first.'

John-Richard's Clipper Table, $789, homesav.com

WEST ELM

▶ West Elm's 8x10 Zigzag Rug ($530)

The one you have looks a bit dark, heavy and plain. Painting it in a pale grey finish and topping it with glass will give it an airy look.

Got a design dilemma? Email your question and a photo to: home@metronews.ca. For daily design advice, follow @KarlLohnes on Twitter.

Pastels: Back in vogue

For a time, pastels had faded into obscurity ◗ Now the unassuming colour palette is seeing a gentle resurgence ◗ Put away your memories of Miami Vice and give the trend a second look

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

The mention of pastels is enough to make some people cringe, especially men. It's a colour palette for which Queen Elizabeth II shows a fondness. But it's seeing a fashionable return — quite literally, have a look at the spring/summer '12 runways. Not to mention blogs and interior magazines.

The interior designer Sophie Paterson and author of Style and Glamour puts it down to people being "fed up with totally neutral colour schemes. Whilst anyone can throw a taupe scheme at a room, it takes a bit more skill to pull off a scheme using colour accents." Not to mention, "pastel colors are very calming and uplifting,"

Urban pastels

Pastels can read bucolic and that's not usually a favoured look amongst, savvy urban dwellers. Paterson suggests using, "soft feminine colours as a contrast with clean line furniture, particularly dark pieces such as grey-stained oak."

Avoid looking dull

"You need to use a variety of textures: velvet, silk, linen and wool all work well in juxtaposition. For example shiny against flat," explains the London-based interior designer. She continues, "I like to start with a neutral base (sofa, wall and floor) and build up the layers using colours and accessories to add depth and interest."

Accents and accessories

Rather than turning your space into a pastel chalkboard, you may prefer to give a nod to the trend with artfully selected accessories. Paterson says, "Ceramic vases work wonderfully in pastels. Abstract oil paintings with a touch of pastel in the paint colours, or even rustic linen cushions with a shot of pastel velvet are particularly sophisticated."

Spring thinking

Do more than just spring-clean and reinvigorate your apartment with a dash of colour because as the expert enthuses, "Pastels are particularly relevant for the spring season. I'm loving dusty pastel green. It represents the beginning of new growth and freshness, which feels so right after the long grey winter."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This is a man's bedroom. Deal with it.

2 PIECES WITH PASTEL

ANTHROPOLOGIE
Amorphous nesting table set
▶ $898, anthropolgie.com

STELTON — ARNE JACOBSEN
AddColour Bright Press Coffee Maker Ltd Ed
▶ $341, panik-design.com

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March is Nutrition Month across Canada • Celebrate eating healthy by trying to 'uncook' raw foods in your own kitchen • This Super Carrot Soup is tasty and easy to prepare

Super Carrot Soup

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes 500 ml (2 cups).

Preparation:

1. In blender, combine carrots, water, oil, cilantro, garlic, raisins, lemon juice, salt, curry powder, cumin and cayenne. Blend until smooth.
2. Topping: Sprinkle each bowl with cilantro and raisins before serving. UNCOOKING WITH RAWROSE BY ROSE VASILE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Variation

Avocado
Avocado can be used instead of olive oil. After blending other ingredients, blend half an avocado and 50 ml (1/4 cup) water until smooth.

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) coarsely chopped carrots
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cilantro
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tsp raisins
- 5 ml (1 tsp) lemon juice
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) sea salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) curry powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- Pinch cayenne 5 ml

Topping:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh cilantro or parsley
- 5 ml (1 tsp) raisins

Weekly Cookbook

Certified raw foods chef Rose Vasile, has released the fifth edition of her Uncooking with RawRose cookbook ($29.95).

The recipes are surprisingly varied and include a large section on soups, salad dressing and dips and another on desserts, often using nuts or seeds as the base for cakes or pies.

One standout recipe is a lasagna made with layers of mushrooms, zucchini and spinach, almond cheese and marinara sauce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Deadline coup for Canucks

THE HOCKEY NEWS

EDWARD FRASER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

While fans of teams, and of trades in general, were grumbling over the lack of action on deadline day, Canucks supporters were all aflutter with the moves made by general manager Mike Gillis to improve his squad this year — and for the future.

Going into Feb. 27 the Canucks had needs for depth on the blue-line and secondary scoring. Marc-Andre Gragnani gives the team seven defencemen with at least 40 games of NHL experience and an eighth if Keith Ballard returns from a concussion in the playoffs. Depth on "D"? Check.

The verdict at forward isn't as black and white, but as the dust settles the deals look to be wise ones. When I first heard Cody Hodgson had been traded to the Sabres, I was certain — certain — skilled centre Derek Roy was coming the other way. When the particulars came to light, I was baffled. Why, during a season where the only goal is the Stanley Cup, trade a player who's been integral for a prospect who has only 28 NHL games under his belt and is currently in the American Hockey League?

Now I realize why: This deal has an excellent chance to be a home run in a couple of years — and a real good shot at being a boon this year, too.

At six-foot-three and 230 pounds, Zack Kassian has the potential to be one of the league's premier power forwards. He hits. He fights. He strikes fear. Think Milan Lucic. Think the opposite of Hodgson. Who would you rather have come playoff time, when the whistles go away and the game favours the brave?

"Zack Kassian has the potential to be one of the league's premier power forwards. He hits. He fights. He strikes fear. Think Milan Lucic."

And because Kassian — the league's No. 13 prospect, according to The Hockey News' Future Watch — plays the wing, he can move up the lineup, just as he did Tuesday night in Phoenix when he skated several of his 20 shifts (12:32 in ice time) alongside Ryan Kesler and Mason Raymond. Hodgson, averaging 12:43 per game, was locked on the third line behind Henrik Sedin and Kesler. (The No. 3 centre minutes will be easily eaten up by the Canucks' other acquisition, Sammy Pahlsson, who's long in the tooth but only a few years removed from a playoff MVP-calibre run with the Ducks in 2007.)

Vancouver didn't land the biggest fish — Rick Nash — as some had hoped, but Gillis' haul was still mighty ... and the fact he focused on both the present and future puts him as the frontrunner for GM of the year.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Canucks trade-deadline acquisition Zack Kassian takes a shot on Phoenix's Mike Smith on Tuesday night in Glendale, Ariz.

Whitecaps keep the wins coming at Disney Classic

The Vancouver Whitecaps exploded in the second half Wednesday to defeat Sporting Kansas City 3-0 and finish with a perfect record in the group stage of the Disney Pro Soccer Classic in Orlando, Fla.

Vancouver (3-0-0) had already clinched first place in Group 1 and a spot in Saturday's final against either Toronto FC or FC Dallas. Those two teams meet Thursday as Group 2 play wraps up.

"It's always nice to win, but I thought we played well," Vancouver coach Martin Rennie said. "We showed a lot of discipline and hard work against a really good team in Kansas City, so it's a game we take a lot of positives from."

After a scoreless first half Sebastien Le Toux got things going for Vancouver, scoring his third goal of the tournament in the 50th minute, volleying home a cross from Davide Chiumiento for a 1-0 lead.

Russell Teibert of Niagara Falls, Ont., made it 2-0 in the 62nd on a shot from 20 yards out that beat Sporting goalkeeper Jon Kempin.

Carlyle Mitchell then stretched the Vancouver lead to three just five minutes later off a pass from Jordan Harvey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Steelers will drop Ward

Hines Ward's constant, ear-to-ear smile tucked behind a black face mask has been a lasting image for Pittsburgh Steelers fans the past 14 seasons.

They won't see it again.

At least, not in a black-and-gold uniform.

The franchise's all-time leader in just about every meaningful receiving category will be released sometime in the next two weeks, said president Art Rooney II on the team's website on Wednesday.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection and MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, Ward will finish his Steelers career with 1,000 catches, 12,083 yards and 85 receiving touchdowns. He helped Pittsburgh to three AFC championships and a pair of Super Bowl wins.

Ward vowed to return for a 15th season next fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

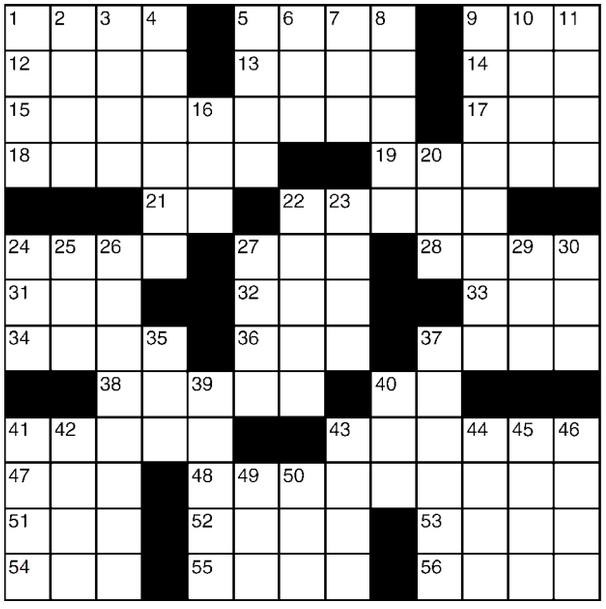
4 sports

Quoted

"I told him he needs to have longer hair. When I think of Giancarlo, I think of someone with long, flowing hair, like Fabio. But if he keeps hitting homers, I'll call him whatever he wants me to call him."

MARLINS CATCHER JOHN BUCK, ON HIS TEAMMATE FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIKE STANTON, ABOVE. STANTON, WHOSE FULL NAME IS GIANCARLO CRUZ MICHAEL STANTON, HAS DECIDED TO USE THE NAME GIANCARLO, WHICH HE DROPPED IN THE FIFTH GRADE BECAUSE NO ONE COULD PRONOUNCE IT PROPERLY (IT'S PRONOUNCED JEE'-AHN-CAHR-LOH).

Crossword



Across

1 Airport schedule data (Abbr.)
5 Mop the deck
9 Kimono closer
12 Anger
13 Sit for a photo
14 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
15 Ancient Mariner's burden
17 Right angle
18 Theatrical
19 American emblem
21 Performing
22 Mythical lecher
24 Geek
27 — capita
28 Billions of years
31 Away from WSW
32 Raw rock
33 Potential syrup
34 Probability
36 Eggs
37 Wan
38 Hidden supply
40 — usual
41 One of The Donald's exes
43 Snare
47 Venusian vessel?
48 Colonial sewer
51 "— Doubtfire"
52 Island neckwear
53 Arctic diving birds
54 "Mayday!"
55 Ticklish Muppet
56 For fear that

Down

1 Historic periods
2 Pinball no-no
3 Actress Jessica
4 Neptune or Poseidon
5 Nimble
6 Court
7 Fool
8 Surround
9 144 units
10 Weevil's morsel
11 Not busy
16 Coffee break hour
20 Favorable vote
22 Wait on
23 Vicinity
24 Ultramodernist
25 Conclusion
26 Relief provider
27 Milne bruin
29 "Unh-unh"
30 Agent
35 Actor Mineo
37 Star-related
39 Larry the — Guy
40 Whatever number
41 "— the word"
42 Roundish hairstyle
43 Old U.S. gas brand
44 Libertine
45 Requests
46 "Hey, you!"
49 Conger, for one
50 Quarterback Tebow

▶ Yeterday's answer

H	Y	P	O	■	D	V	R	■	A	P	P	S
A	E	O	N	■	I	I	I	■	V	A	L	E
P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	■	E	R	I	E
S	H	E	A	T	H	■	G	A	R	T	E	R
■	■	■	P	E	R	■	S	L	A	Y	■	■
A	L	P	■	M	A	P	■	A	G	I	L	E
B	O	A	T	■	G	E	E	■	E	N	I	D
C	Y	R	U	S	■	A	N	T	■	G	T	O
■	■	T	R	O	D	■	G	U	T	■	■	■
G	L	E	N	N	E	■	A	F	R	A	I	D
E	U	R	O	■	P	A	R	T	I	C	L	E
E	A	R	N	■	O	D	D	■	T	H	I	N
S	U	E	S	■	T	O	E	■	E	Y	E	S

Sudoku

		5	7		2			
	2					1	7	
4	3				9	8		
6		3	2				9	
				7				
	8				5	6		4
		8	1				4	3
	7	9					6	
			3		6	2		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	8	3	7	2	4	1	9
2	9	3	1	4	8	5	6	7
4	7	1	6	5	9	3	2	8
6	4	2	9	8	3	7	5	1
3	8	5	7	1	6	9	4	2
7	1	9	4	2	5	6	8	3
9	2	6	5	3	1	8	7	4
8	5	7	2	9	4	1	3	6
1	3	4	8	6	7	2	9	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

YOU, All of my life I have tried to find someone who could see the world through my eyes. I thought I walked this earth alone until I met you. **M**

Lady Gaga
Thank you for always being there and strong for us Little Monsters. You give me hope and courage. Congratulations on the Born This Way Foundation!!! PAWS UP! **LADY ALA**

meme, when i first saw you walk by me i thought to myself " i need you a.s.a.p over there" but i was to shy of a guy because you where to much and so was work. so here i am today giving you a kiss; TC!!! **BILLY**

Doctor what can i do? why does it have to be like that? **CURE ME**

Today 7°/3° Sunny
Friday 6°/5° Rain 90%
Winning could be in your forecast! Visit us online for chances to WIN at theweathernetwork.com/contests
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
If you can't get excited about what you have planned to do today then, obviously, you should be doing something else.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
All those worries and woes you have been carrying around with you suddenly seem irrelevant.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
You can be quite sensitive to mood changes in your environment and that skill will be useful today.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
A surge of negative cosmic activity makes you believe that certain people are against you. They're not. You need to lighten up and smile.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Stop trying to control everything that happens and let fate guide you. That applies to all areas but in particular to joint financial issues.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Today's cosmic influences will encourage you to be open about your feelings — but not so open that your heart rules your head entirely.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
If someone approaches you with an idea or proposal today, don't turn them down flat. Listen.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Keep routine tasks to a minimum and don't worry if you fall behind in your schedule. Be flexible.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Others may be hopping from one foot to the other in anger today but you cannot be bothered.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
It's good that you don't take what others believe as a personal insult to your own values. Be open.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Something is going to happen whether you like it or not, and you know it. So why are you still fighting the future? Adapt yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Have you been making use of your skills? If you are honest, you will admit you have fallen a bit short lately. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

MICHAEL CONROY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID GOLDMAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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14kt white gold diamond (550=2.75 ctw) tennis bracelet
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,560.00
J&M Sale Price $1,644.00

10kt classic hand-carved cameo brooch
Appraisal value: $1,500.00
J&M Regular Price $749.00
J&M Sale Price $487.00

Ladies' 14kt white gold ring with bare cut citrine and 0.45ctw diamonds, 4.4 grams
Appraisal value: $1,700.00
J&M Regular Price $429.00
J&M Sale Price $286.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond
Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00
J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

18kt white gold pendant with 51 diamonds (0.80 ctw)
Appraisal value: $2,100.00
J&M Regular Price $795.00
J&M Sale Price $517.00

Ladies 14kt yellow gold ring with 0.27ct emerald surrounded by 14 diamonds (0.21 ctw)
Appraisal value: $1,200.00
J&M Regular Price $319.00
J&M Sale Price $208.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 ctw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,799.00
J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

18kt pendant with 0.42ct centre stone surrounded by 0.15 ctw halo of diamonds
Appraisal value: $3,000.00
J&M Regular Price $1,199.00
J&M Sale Price $777.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 ctw baguette and round diamonds
Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00
J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

Gold by weight. Dare to compare.

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
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J&M Sale Price $377.00

Ladies' 18kt yellow gold ring with 0.58 ct ruby and 8 diamonds (0.16 ctw), 5.3 grams
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14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams
J&M Regular Price $1,534.00
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14kt yellow gold ladies' dinner ring, 3.23 grams
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J&M Sale Price $167.00

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1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00
J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13
You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 9.08 grams
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J&M Sale Price $37.80

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